GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1404
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2005
MALNUTRITION OF CHILDREN
Sajjan Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of children died in the country due to malnutrition even when the funds allocated under Integrated Child Development Services (I.C.D.S.) were fully utilized during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) if so, the details thereof, age-group-wise;

(c) whether the Government has identified the reasons responsible for the failure of the I.C.D.S.; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to stop such deaths in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH)

(a)&(b) Malnutrition is a multifaceted problem and is not a direct cause of death. However, it can increase morbidity and mortality by reducing the resistance to infections. The details of number of deaths due to malnutrition are not being maintained.

(c)&(d) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme aims at holistic development of children below 6 years. An evaluation of the ICDS Scheme conducted by National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in 1998-99 has revealed that there has been a significant impact of the Scheme in reduction of IMR. It would, therefore, not be correct to say that the Scheme has been a failure.

It has, however, been a constant endeavour of the Government to make the Scheme more effective. The steps taken in this direction, in the recent past, include, setting up of Coordination Committee of ICDS, Health, and Elementary Education functionaries at National, State, District, Block and Village levels to ensure convergence of services, doubling of financial norms for supplementary nutrition; proposed expansion of the Scheme to bring uncovered habitations/settlements within its ambit, Central assistance to States for supplementary nutrition etc.

Government is also implementing several other programmes/schemes viz. National Diarrhea Disease Control Programme; National Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) Control Programme; Vitamin-A Supplementation; Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation; Promotion of Breast feeding; Complementary feeding from six months of life; Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness etc. to address the problem of infant and child mortality in the country.